Railways are required to be replaced every 18 months to two years; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to improve the rail track?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVUAY SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir,

(c) Research Design Standard Organisation (RDSO) is conducting trails with improved rubber pads to get longer life.

Report on Gaisal rail accident

3916. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have received the inquiry report on the rail accident which had taken place on 2nd August, 1999 near Gaisal station;

(b) if so, when the said report has been received and the details of factors found responsible for the said accident, on the basis of the report; and

(c) whether Government have taken any action so far, on the basis of the report; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI DIGVUAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Inquiry Commission headed by Shri Justice G. N. Ray, retired Judge of Supreme Court of India, was appointed to inquire into the accident at Gaisal station of Katihar division on North East Frontier Railway has submitted its report on 28.1.2001. As per findings of the Commission the accident occurred due to "Failure of Railway Staff'.

(c) Action against the staff & officers, as recommended by the Commission are being initiated as per Discipline and Appeal Rules. The Commission has made a total of 21 recommendations of which 18 have been accepted.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.